

BRITISH
NORTH AMERICA.

No. 1.

(No. 133.)

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Licut.-Governor Sir JOHN HARVEY.

SIR,

Downing-street, December 1, 1848.

See page 22 of
Papers presented
by command to
both Houses of
Parliament, July,
1848.

193, April 6, 1848.

See page 27 of
Papers presented
by Command, April,
1848.

WITH reference to the Act on immigrant vessels of which I received the authentic copy amongst the laws enclosed in your Despatch, No. 51, of the 18th of August last, I have the honour to acquaint you, that to the main provisions of that measure, I see no objection, but as to the clause which makes the wrecks of ships liable for the maintenance and conveyance of their passengers to their destination, it is my duty to put you in possession of the enclosed copy of a Despatch to Lord Elgin, in which you will see the observations I had to make on a similar clause inserted in the Immigrant Act of that province. You will perceive, that equitable as appears the object of such an enactment, yet when a vessel is lost the wreck may become the property of other persons than her previous owners, and that it might interfere with fair claims on the part of insurers to render such wrecks liable to special local charges.

I have, &c.,

Sir John Harvey,
&c. &c

(Signed) GREY.